

In West Coast Zone

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Fire Balloons, Stolen Food Play Part in Enemy Strategy

Dies Group Told Jap Internees Hid 'Invasion' Supplies

By the Associated Press

Los Angeles, June 10.—A former official of the Poston, Ariz., relocation center testified before the Dies Congressional Subcommittee. It was disclosed today, that Japanese in the Poston camp cached bread and other food in the desert for invasion forces and paratroopers.

The committee made public testimony given before it here May 26 in secret session by Harold H. Townsend, former chief supply and transportation officer at the Poston camp.

"We purchased 3750 pounds of bread daily," Townsend testified, the transcript showed. "They (the Japanese) are not great bread eaters. The majority of this bread was dried and stored away."

"They stated that they were hoarding food, bread and other supplies for parachute troops and for invasion forces."

"The information that was furnished me by certain friendly groups," Townsend continued, "was that they had placed different types of emergency food in secret cellars under the mess halls for the invasion armies and parachute troopers."

"But in addition to that they had large caches of food throughout the desert, buried, that could be used for similar purposes. This information was furnished by friendly Japanese who were endeavoring to get special favors. We were constantly trying to find out what was happening to certain supplies. . . . We constantly had probably 15 or 20 informants that kept us advised as to certain storages within the camp area."

Army Discloses Attempts to Start Blazes in Oregon

By the Associated Press

Eugene, Oreg., June 10.—Incendiary bombs carried by free balloons have been dropped on Oregon forests by the enemy in attempts to start fires, Lieut. Col. James W. Fraser, member of an Army party now touring logging and lumber operations in this area, disclosed today.

He said the method of attack has been used with success in World War II. He did not specify the area of the Coast where the enemy attacks were made. He said the device was used "in 1942."

The balloons, probably released by enemy submarines carry a cluster of incendiary bombs, timed to drop and explode when they are blown in from the sea over the forests.

Colonel Fraser warned loggers and millmen to be on the alert for repetitions of this method of attack and others which have been tested by the enemy.

The Army man is now aiding in setting up a forest protection staff made up of trained woodsmen.

He predicted that at a "zero hour" chosen by the enemy, a concentrated attack on Oregon forests can be expected, utilizing not only the balloons carrying incendiaries, but plane bombing, shelling from submarines and trained saboteurs.

He also warned that lookout stations might be strafed from the air and delayed action bombs might be used to injure forest fire fighters.